



## Flood Caucus Meeting

### MEETING SUMMARY

## CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN: UPDATE 2013

### FLOOD CAUCUS MEETING

MAY8, 2012 1:30 P.M – 4:00 P.M.

CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE POLICY, SACRAMENTO, CA 95811

#### Meeting Purpose:

The California Water Plan (CWP) Flood Caucus is a statewide topic-based workgroup designed to support development of CWP Update 2013 through in-depth discussions and deliberations of integrated flood management topics and issues. The Integrated Flood Management (IFM) Caucus will identify and expand information associated with integrated flood management related to statewide and regional needs, opportunities and challenges. Meeting materials can be found online here:

<http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/materials/index.cfm?subject=may0912>

#### Meeting Goals:

- Provide a status update on the Flood Future Report
- Provide an overview of the Flood Management in Integrated Water Management Technical Memorandum and other TMs on the website
- Discuss next steps for the Integrated Flood Management Resource Management Strategy
- Review overall Caucus schedule

#### Attendance: (See Attached)

#### Action Items:

#	Item	Owner	Due Date
1.	A section on the Technology element to be included in the Integrated Flood Management Resource Management Strategy.	Flood Caucus/Authors	July 2012
2.	Interface with Flood Caucus to be discussed with California Water Plan Technology Caucus.	Lisa Beutler/Joshua Biggs	Before next Technology Caucus Meeting
3.	Caucus Co-Leads to organize a Caucus conference call for a deep dive on comments to the draft Flood Future Report during its public review period.	Caucus Co-Leads/Lisa Beutler	June 7-9
4.	Lisa Beutler to provide a template for a comment spreadsheet. Comments from Flood Caucus members on The Flood Future Report Technical Memorandum on Integrated Flood Management should go directly into this spreadsheet.	Lisa Beutler	June 4

#### Announcements:

- Membership is closing before next caucus meeting on June 4. If you are going to participate, please get your membership request in to Lisa Beutler by that date.



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### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Lisa Beutler (Executive Facilitator for the California Water Plan) and Terri Wegener (DWR, Division of Statewide Integrated Water Management) began the meeting with opening remarks, an agenda review, and ground rules. Introductions were done for all meeting participants. Al Herson, Ivanka Todt, John Hopkins, and were introduced as the Co-leads of the Flood Caucus. Terri Wegener explained some of the relationships between the work that the group will be doing with the Water Plan Flood Resource Management Strategy, and the Statewide Flood Future Report.

### **We are here:**

The work of the Flood Caucus is defined in its charter. The charter includes a list of due dates, and describes roles and responsibilities.

Besides the *Flood Future Report*, other supporting activities of this caucus will include review and input on the flood elements of *Regional Reports* in the California Water Plan 2013 Update, developing the *Integrated Flood Management RMS*, and cross-cutting with Land Use, Technology, and Groundwater RMS's.

### **Caucus Schedule:**

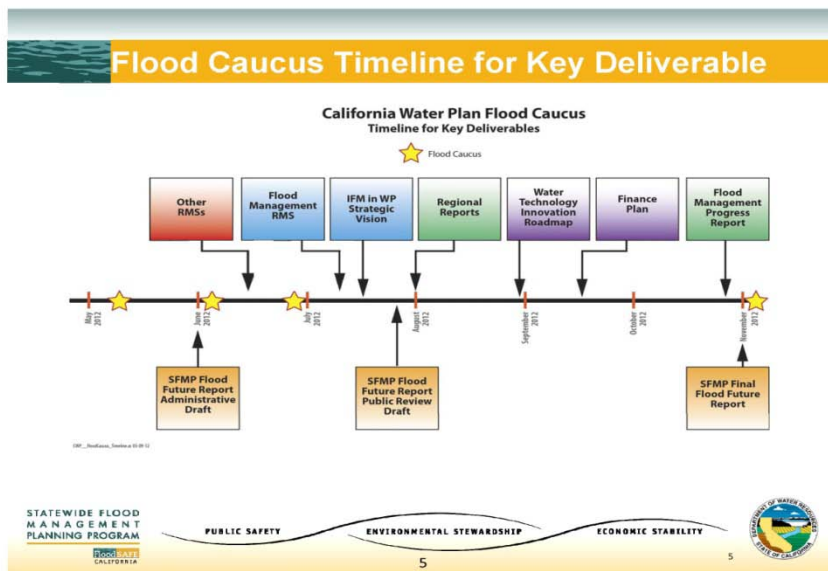
Terri Wegener presented a flood caucus timeline for key deliverables:

- An Administrative Draft of the *Flood Future Report* is planned to be available by June 1 for review by this caucus

She noted that there had been some schedule drift on the Flood Future Report, so the Administrative draft was not available in full for this meeting. The *California Water Plan Update 2013* is on its own independent timeline; most of its work product will be done by the end of this calendar year, with meaningful comparisons completed for report out by the time of the Plenary Session in the fall. Information from the review of the *Flood Future Report* will feed into the *Integrated Flood Management RMS*. Work on the RMS will also be happening in the month of June, with an end product out in July. This caucus will also be commenting on other RMS's during this time frame as a parallel effort. Input into the Water Plan strategic vision will also be happening in July.



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This caucus will meet next on June 4 and will be able to discuss further the details of the administrative draft Flood Future Report, and the Integrated Flood Management RMS. On June 29, this caucus will come back and pull these various together in time for July completion.

### Walk-through of selected technical memorandums including Flood Management in Integrated Water Management, Information Gathering, and Flood Exposure:

Terri Wegener began the walkthrough with some background of the *Flood Future Report*, and the Statewide Flood Management Planning Program.

The work in the *Flood Future Report* is intended to “build bridges” among different agencies at all levels of government that are involved in integrated flood management. The goals are to enhance public safety, promote environmental stewardship, and support economic stability. These are consistent with the California FloodSAFE Program. The Flood Future Report is a “first pass” at exposing flood risk around the entire state, identifying flood management challenges, and finding opportunities for integrated flood management and integrated water management. Some Q&A took place during the PowerPoint presentation:

Q: Where does Technology development fit into this report?

A: Technology does not easily fit into the scope of the Flood Future Report. This work has a wide focus, and is strategic in focus. If you do have recommendations on this subject, the California



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Water Plan Technology Caucus would likely be interested. (*This item was flagged for the note taker*)

Q: As we identify and inventory problems in this report, is the plan only considering projects that are past CEQA? Or will it include projects that have yet to undergo environmental review?

A: Subsequent work will include that. Permitting is a factor that will go along with that in the follow up work. The *Flood Future Report* will not include a list of specific projects. The document will also contain a discussion on how permitting can become less of a roadblock in the future.

Terri Wegener continued the presentation on the Flood Future Report, noting that the document will contain a white paper and policy brief that will target a legislative audience. More discussion is summarized:

Q: How is the information on flood exposure going to be used for recommendations and policy development?

A: One of the key intentions for this report was to get an accurate picture of flood risk in the State, especially outside of the Central Valley. There are many areas of the state where we don't know much about specific flood risks. The flood assessment work here points us in the right direction.

Q: Is the data presented in the report aggregated at the IRWM level?

A: Yes. We have many ways we have sliced this data, IRWM is one of them; Congressional districts are another.

Terri continued by explaining that flood management agency structure varies in the State. There are over 500 agencies with 42 different governance structures. Funding and responsibilities are often limited. The Flood Future Report started as a California Department of Water Resources effort, but now includes federal partners at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Q&A continued:

Q: Did you gather information about approaches to ecosystem stewardship in each area? It is one of the foundations of the Flood SAFE program.

A: We took information as agencies gave it to us to weave it into our integrated approach. I agree, it is not as highlighted here as much as I would like, mostly because we don't have a dollar value metric. This area will likely be an opportunity for this caucus to provide input.

Q: Some county information is missing, are we still trying to reach out to them?

A: Yes, we are still trying – though at some point it will be too late. Some counties and agencies have resource constraints. The team was a bit surprised on the lack of information in some areas. We were surprised that there wasn't more risk assessment when looking at things like stormwater management.



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Q: What was your methodology for determining 500 year floodplains?

A: We took the FEMA 500 year flood plain where specific information was not available. We have also had a lot of input from locals and the USACE. We will work more with FEMA in the future on this.

### Discussion on the Inventory of Flood Infrastructure

Q: Why did you inventory the planned projects?

A: To get a handle on current thinking, and to come up with a starting point. Also, to get a handle on what locals vision as doable.

Q: One of the intents was to develop regional partnerships, are you looking at a whole new set of projects, or getting regions to work around these ones?

A: We will talk about this later in the regional flood planning areas. People are trying to get wrapped around the magnitude of what we are talking about. This is to begin to get a sense of the scale of this issue.

Q: Is there prioritization of these projects in this report?

A: No, this is a high level, we cannot make those assumptions.

Q: Do you expect this caucus to look at this project list for the RMS?

A: No, not that level for the Water Plan. For financing, we will look at a macro level, to see how the state looks at making investments from an IFM perspective. This right here allows us to be strategic.

### Discussion on Integrated Flood Management in the context of Integrated Water Management

Q: In the appendix, we use the term Flood Management/Integrated Water Management (FM/IWM) to denote the context. Does FM/IWM mean the same thing as Integrated Water Management (IWM)? Could we just use the term IWM in the RMS? What makes it different?

A: That is a great question for this caucus. Integrated Flood Management (IFM) probably best describes what we are doing. In 2009, there was a big discussion on this by this caucus, and it was a tension point.

Meeting facilitator Lisa Beutler led a group discussion on the history of the terminology, and debate that happened in the previous iteration of the California Water Plan Flood Caucus. She described that the group went through 3 or 4 versions in 2009, and it would be up to the 2013 caucus to set the State's policy on this. Group members noted that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has its own unique terms, and that the organization of the California Department of Water Resources reflected a



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different way of thinking about IFM/IWM. It was also noted that Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP's) often don't focus on flood issues, and that the work of the Flood Future Report will look to address that.

Discussion shifted to some of the tables shown in the *Flood Future Report Technical Memorandum on Flood Management in Integrated Water Management*.

Q: Does the report assess the level of coordination by IRWM's?

A: Not in that specific way. There is however a table showing the types of agencies involved in Integrated Water Management activities, shown by county. There are thousands of special districts listed in this table.

Q: That is interesting how this table labels planned FM/IWM projects. How does this match up with the information that the IRWM's have?

A: Some of this came from the information gathering phase, and some if it also came from the IRWM regions. We contacted regional water management coordinators as well. So it is a combination of assessments from the beginning and the IRWM. Some of these plans however, have not been updated in a few years.

Q: Will this information roll into the next phase of IRWMP updates?

A: There is an existing IRWM grant process moving forward on its own path. We will want to take the next step with including that, but that is a big challenge in it of itself. We are recommending new flood management planning areas. They are watershed based, and we consider CWP regions, USACE districts, and existing IRWM funding regions, and come up with recommendations about how regions can come up with regional flood planning with closer agency alignments to meet opportunities. We don't want flood to get lost in the IRWM world.

Q: How does the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers fit into this process?

A: It is a challenge, because the USACE typically works with sponsors. Hopefully, the Corps will participate in discussions at the regional level. If we have projects, we will need to identify the sponsor and the larger body.

Terri Wegener capped the discussion with "What we end up with is recommendations on how we do things now, and how to reshape this structure in the future". The group then discussed a map of planning regions in the Technical Memorandum.

Q: This map is interesting, but basing planning regions this seems to be a scale of planning beyond what anyone is doing. I get that we want to move forward, but I am struggling with where this is going. Even the SPFC area is proposed to break into 9 regions. How do you get there? We can't even get flood into IRWMPs. This is a leap based on the current way things are done.



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A: That shows the beginning of Phase 2. The team will develop a strategy for implementation at that phase.

Group comments about the boundaries on the map followed the question:

- These areas may not line up with “funding areas”
- There can be an adverse reaction to “watershed boundaries”
- It may be best to define these areas at the start so the public can become familiar with the “new layer”
- More flexibility could bring better quality collaboration and results

### Feedback on Attachment H

Lisa Beutler walked the participant’s through the document. She asked them to think about the RMS requirements while looking at Attachment H:

1. Definitions
2. This topic in the context of California today.
3. What are the benefits of doing this?
4. How much will it cost?
5. Are there any barriers or problems?
6. Any Recommendations for overcoming barriers and challenges.

Lisa asked that caucus members keep in mind that funding requests and financing will not appear in the RMS, but will be found in the *CWP Finance Plan*. She reminded everyone to actively look for information that can be pulled out for integration into the RMS.

Initial comments from the group:

- In the Management Actions chapter, on page eleven, there are nine listed. I would think a major challenge is to decide if these into the Flood RMS, or if some belong in other RMS’s.
- We did identify land use planning as a major component of IFM. Land use planning and controls is not the same as specific projects. I would suggest we don’t want to import that into the FloodRMS. Land Use done right should reduce the requirements of projects. I don’t see that in the nine management actions.
- I would like to beef up the broader environmental stewardship side of this TM.
- I would suggest the ecosystem functions piece and the floodplain management component could be merged into floodplain restoration component.
- IRMWPs need to broaden their scope beyond water supply; the Flood Future Report should address this.

Discussion of the comments followed:



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Q: I think the synergy between IRWMs and other stuff has to be ironed out more. There will be a reaction to this report. Why shouldn't this fit other existing IRWMPs? If you have a need for this program, you need to make the case that this is different, and show why it is different. A clear presentation is going to be important to the IRWM folks. To what degree this coordinates with IRWMPs is very important and I don't have the answer. Also, it will be interesting to see what projects you highlight, that are not actually sponsored by IRWM. If they are all there, then people may ask why we are doing this process?

A: Less than 20% of the projects listed are actually in the IRWMs. It may be a bit of a timing issue.

Q: That is a huge statement right there, that helps support this. The IRWMP is always at the Water supply nexus, and that loses projects that have a flood component. This could help change the IRWM process; right now you cannot get big levee projects through IRWMs. We also need more of a local perspective on this, like the stuff that they wrestle with like NFIP, and how that impacts them. They respond to efforts between NFIP and building codes as well. How do we do that?

A: One of the Technical Memorandums that has yet to be released is called *Opportunities and Challenges*, and that is where the *Flood Future Report* team captured input from the local entities.

### Organizing for Review:

The group members discussed how they would like to organize themselves for review of the Flood Future Report, and its Technical attachments:

- A June 1 deadline for comments on the technical attachments
- Comments from the caucus to be compiled in template spreadsheets
- A conference call to be scheduled in the second week of the Flood Future Report review period to discuss comments among caucus members

### Wrap Up, Next Steps & Adjourn:

One caucus member stated: "For the record, this is an impressive effort. I wish it had been done 20 years ago, before the IRWMs"

As is the practice for Water Plan sessions, the meeting was **Adjourned** at the scheduled time.



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### **Attendance:**

*Note: (W) = Attended via Web*

### **Group Co-Leads**

1. Terri Wegener, DWR
2. Al Herson, American Planning Association
3. Iovanka Todt, Floodplain Management Association
4. John Hopkins, Institute for Ecological Health

### **Participants**

5. Tammy Butterworth (W)
6. Kim Carsell, USACE
7. Mike Granada (W), Orange County Public Works
8. Todd Hillaire (W), DWR
9. Mark Horne (W), Cardno ENTRIX
10. Mick Klasson
11. Nick Konovaloff (W)
12. Stephen Layton, CH2MHill
13. James May (W), Tulare County
14. Hunter Merritt, USACE
15. Salomon Miranda, DWR
16. Roger Putty (W), MWH Americas
17. Pat Showalter (W), Santa Clara Valley Water District
18. Jason Sidley, DWR
19. Bob Siegfried (W)
20. Jennifer Svec (W), California Association of Realtors
21. Ernie Taylor (W), DWR
22. Vanessa Thompson, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
23. Eric Tsai, MWH Americas
24. Sergio Vargas (W)
25. Patricia Wood (W), LADWP

### **Meeting Staff**

26. Lisa Beutler, Executive Facilitator
27. Joshua Biggs, Note Taker